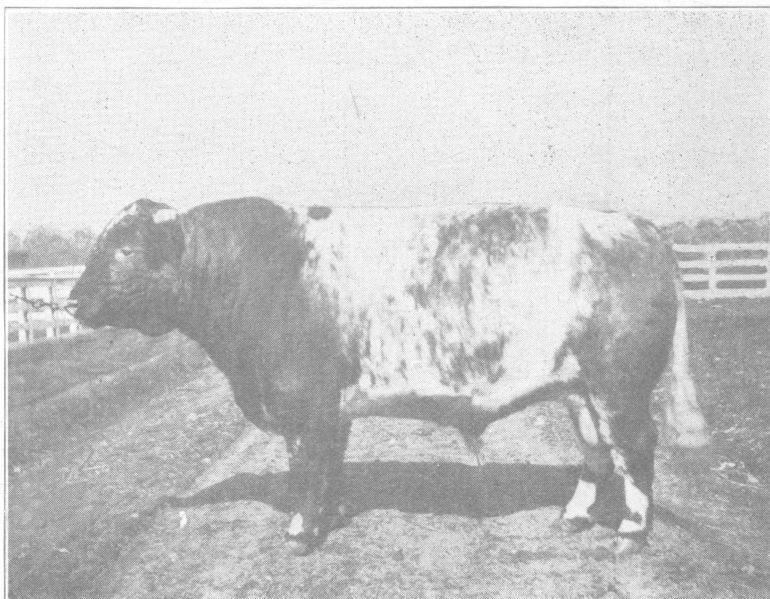


Purebred Sires for Ohio

By C. S. PLUMB

Department of Animal Husbandry



Maxwalton Pride 2d, a fine type of Shorthorn sire, formerly owned by the Ohio State University, and selling at public auction at \$6,600.

PUREBRED SIRES FOR OHIO

"BETTER SIRES—BETTER STOCK"

In October, 1919, the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture began a campaign with the above slogan, "to hasten the replacement of the multitude of scrub domestic animals with purebred or high grade stock, and to improve the quality of purebreds themselves." This campaign has taken on a nation-wide movement, and many states are actively engaged in promoting this worthy work. Inasmuch as Ohio is a most important livestock producing state, the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University is cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture in behalf of better livestock.

WHAT IS A PUREBRED ANIMAL?

In the course of years, there have been developed what are known as breeds of livestock. In most cases a breed is the result of a long-time development in a community, where animals of a common ancestry have reproduced essentially the same characteristics from generation to generation. These characteristics include color, form, temperament, and production as very distinctive breed features. In connection with the development of the breeds, men have organized breeding associations for promoting purity of blood lines and producing capacity. These associations establish standards of purity and merit, register on their books the names or numbers of animals, and issue registry certificates giving the name, number, and date of birth; also the name and number of both sire and dam, and names and addresses of breeder and owner. On some certificates several generations of ancestry are given. Whatever we possess today of intrinsic merit in our farm animals, is due to the improvements brought about thru breed development. Purebred animals differ greatly in degree of merit, but as a whole they represent a definite accomplishment in behalf of better breeding. The purebred sire, therefore, is indispensable in the improvement of our herds and flocks.

THE WEAKNESS OF THE SCRUB OR GRADE SIRE

Only a small percentage of our farm animals are purebred, most of them having descended from more or less unknown parentage. If an animal is descended from inferior, unknown breeding in the case of each parent, and is also inferior as an individual, quite lack-

ing in breed character, it is commonly termed *a scrub*. However, if an animal comes from an ancestry that is not of pure breeding on one side, but shows the characteristics of a purebred ancestry, this is due to the use of well established blood in developing the herd, by a grading up process thru the use of purebred males. Such an animal is known as *a grade*, and it may be a very good one. The merit existing in such an animal is due to the purebred sire. A scrub sire is a disgrace and damage to a herd, for it contributes to its offspring a combination of inferior qualities, such as are associated with least values from any point of view. A grade sire pos-

Better Sires—Better Stock

UPON evidence of interest in better live stock and desire to take part in a nation-wide crusade of improvement, including cattle, horses, asses, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry, the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural College have officially enrolled—

John Doe (NAME OF LIVESTOCK OWNER) *Farmville, U.S.A.* (ADDRESS)

July 4, 1920 (DATE ENROLLED) *1234* (EMBLEM NUMBER)

Every sire kept or sold has been declared (by the person named above) to be a purebred of good quality in recognition of which this emblem is issued and its display authorized by the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

This emblem is granted in recognition of merit and effort in livestock improvement. It is a guarantee of the quality of any domestic animals and is displayed to insure betterment of the breeding stock.

A miniature copy of the livestock emblem given to those enrolling in the purebred sire campaign.

sesses an ancestry in which improvement has been sought thru the use of pure blood. However, in many cases the grade sire is lacking in qualities of merit, and is especially deficient on one side of the family. These deficiencies he is quite likely to reproduce in his offspring. It is practically impossible to improve a herd from generation to generation by the use of grade sires. They are destructive rather than constructive in their influence.

THE OHIO PUREBRED SIRE CAMPAIGN

In spite of the preeminence of Ohio as a livestock state, and our many excellent flocks and herds, there are still many stallions,

bulls, rams, and boars used in service in the state that are either grades or scrubs. One has but to travel over Ohio and see the breeding herds, to realize the truth of this statement. This condition prevails universally in the United States, and on all sides we observe flocks and herds of mixed and aimless breeding.

The Department of Animal Husbandry of the Ohio State University, cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture, has inaugurated the "Ohio Purebred Sire Campaign," with the view of securing a marked improvement in our livestock. The University urges that no breeding males be used on our farms (and this to include fowls), excepting those of purebred ancestry, and if possible with registry record. One should not only use purebred males, but should use good ones. As a general rule, the more excellence there is in a breeding animal, the more likelihood there is of the meritorious qualities being transmitted to the offspring. In each case where the owner of a stock farm agrees to use only purebred sires in his herd, a neat certificate, similar to illustration shown, will be furnished him, on which it is stated that "Every sire kept or used has been declared to be a purebred of good quality; in recognition of which this emblem is issued and its display authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture, and the State Agricultural College and cooperating agencies." On this certificate is the name of the owner, his address, and the date of enrollment.

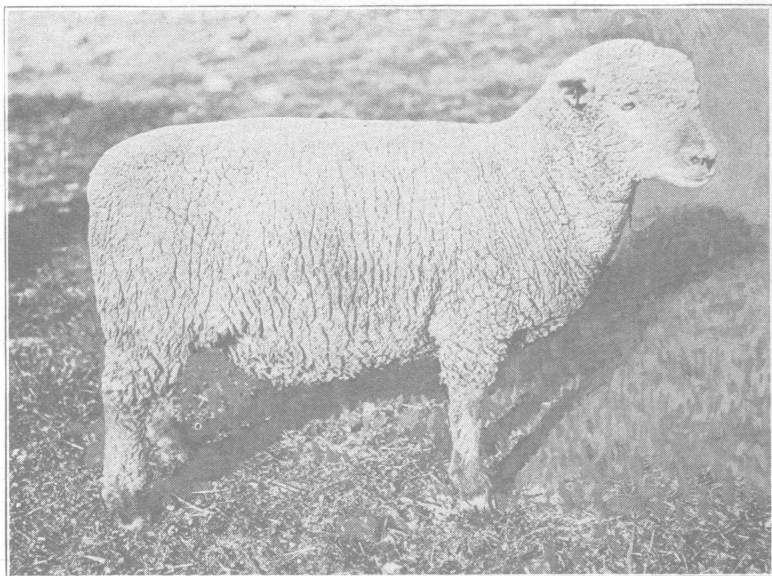
HOW TO ENROLL IN THE PUREBRED SIRE CAMPAIGN

An enrollment blank may be obtained thru the county agricultural agent or the Department of Animal Husbandry of the Ohio State University. On this blank the applicant is to state, in space provided, the name and registry number of each sire in his herd, with the number of breeding females, whether purebred, crossbred, grade or scrub. The owner of the stock signs the following declaration:

"I have listed in the foregoing statement the number of cattle, horses, asses, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry kept for breeding, and in the future will keep and use only purebred sires of good quality in those classes of livestock. I will also follow, to the best of my ability, breeding methods leading to livestock improvement."

This enrollment blank, after being signed by the applicant, is given to the county agent, where there is such; otherwise it is signed by two disinterested persons familiar with livestock. The signed blank is then sent to the Department of Animal Husbandry of the College of Agriculture, where it is signed by a representative

of the University, and from the college is sent to the United States Department of Agriculture. In return, the Department of Agriculture furnishes one of the certificates which has already been described. This certificate should be framed and hung in the farm office, or in some other suitable place where it may be seen to advantage. Every stockman having such a certificate has taken a stand in behalf of better livestock, and should be an influence for good in the community. No one will be given a certificate who uses any kind of scrub or grade sires on the farm, and this includes poultry. Persons owning no livestock are not eligible to this en-



A very high class wether sired by a Southdown ram, and out of a grade ewe.
Bred by Ohio State University.

rollment. It is to be distinctly understood that under no circumstances is one to have other than purebred sires in the herd. If service of males owned in other herds is desired, the condition requires that these also must be of purebred ancestry.

COMMUNITY COOPERATION ON PUREBRED SIRES

It must be conceded that in those communities where livestock holds a place of importance, the greater the percentage of purebred sires, the better will be the quality and character of the animals of the community. In such a neighborhood, animals should bring comparatively good prices, and should reflect credit upon the breed-

ing operations of the stockmen. There are at present counties in the eastern part of the United States, where the people have succeeded in getting rid of every scrub and grade sire, and establishing a 100 percent purebred sire record. There are many counties in this country where an aggressive effort in behalf of better breeding and better stock is rapidly reducing the number of sires that should be on the black list. *Can Ohio afford to do other than wage war against the scrub or grade sire? Every man in this state who believes in improved livestock should insist on the vital importance of using only purebred sires.* Not only this, but cooperative buying by two or more men that they may secure the use of a sire of superior breeding and individuality, is also often to be recommended. There are many instances of men buying valuable sires in partnership, thereby reducing the individual cost, and making a very desirable purchase that would otherwise have been impossible. Therefore, it may be seen that there are two important things to be accomplished in a community: one, getting rid of illbred sires; the other, cooperating to buy and bring in sires of outstanding merit.

ADVERTISE WHERE YOU STAND

A stockman who is not for a purebred sire campaign is against it. Therefore, every man who owns a farm on which he keeps livestock, should declare himself in behalf of this great work of improvement, and of getting rid of the animal weeds. In a purebred bull campaign in Wisconsin, metal signs were used which read,

"PUREBRED BULL USED ON THIS FARM"

These were nailed to the gateways of the farms. Such a sign is a good means of advertising one's position in behalf of improved breeding, and the more such signs are to be seen in a community, the more progressive a livestock section it will be. County agents would do well to advocate publicity of this sort.

SOME PUREBREDS VS. SCRUBS EVIDENCE

CASE I

In a survey conducted in Illinois by the College of Agriculture, 673 farms showed the following returns: Purebred bulls were used on 124 farms, where a yearly profit of \$1,102 per farm was secured; grade bulls were used on 466 farms, with a profit of \$734 per farm; while scrub bulls were used on 83 farms, conducted at a yearly loss of \$234.

CASE II

The Iowa State College Agricultural Experiment Station purchased some scrub cows in Arkansas with the purpose of making a study of the influence of improved breeding during several generations, thru the use of purebred sires. In using a Holstein-Friesian bull on the scrub cows that averaged 3,406 pounds of milk and 169 pounds of butterfat in a year, the first generation of grades produced 6,444 pounds of milk and 266 pounds of fat; and the second generation 11,003 pounds of milk and 385 pounds of fat. "The average feed cost of production for 100 pounds of milk," writes Professor A. C. McCandlish in the *Holstein-Friesian World*, "was \$2.84 in the case of the scrubs, \$2.77 in the case of the first generation grades, and \$2.48 in the case of the second generation grades. A reduction of 36 cents in the cost of producing 100 pounds of milk, coupled with a doubled yield, certainly means much in the way of increased net returns."

CASE III

The following statement is by L. M. Scott of Wisconsin¹: "In the fall of 1915 I took the calves away from two cows the same age, one a scrub and the other a high grade Hereford. The cows were fed together on silage and hay until May 10, when they were turned on bluegrass pasture, neither being in calf.

"The first week in August, I shipped them with our steers to market. The scrub cow brought \$38.65. The grade Hereford brought \$110. The sires made the difference in price I received for the two cows."

CASE IV

The Tazewell County (Virginia) Purebred Bull Club, or Shorthorn Association, was organized in the fall of 1916 with 225 members, and capital stock of \$8,000. In the spring of 1917, 38 purebred Shorthorn bulls were purchased and placed in districts thruout the county. That summer they bred 1,400 cows. Calves dropped from this mating in the spring of 1918 sold for \$10 more per head than those sired by common bulls. This made the first year's calf crop worth an extra \$14,000 to the county. Experienced cattle men say that this will be trebled by the time the cattle are matured, which will make an ultimate increased value from the use of the purebred bulls of \$42,000. *Extension Division News, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, February, 1920.*

¹Circular 121, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Wisconsin

CASE V

The Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station bred 34 grade Merino ewes of Western breeding, 17 to a scrub ram, and 17 to a purebred Hampshire ram. The lambs from this breeding were sold at three months of age. The Hampshire grade lambs sold for \$7.35 per 100 pounds, and the lambs by the scrub sire for \$4.50 per 100 pounds. The well-bred lambs showed the mutton form that commands the better price on the market, while the others did not.

THE FAME OF OHIO AS A LIVESTOCK STATE

For over a century Ohio has been famous for her herds and flocks. Here have been developed many of the famous herds of America. However, the question may now be raised, are we improving in our livestock development in keeping with many other states? If we are to be judged by the prices paid for purebred livestock in other states during the past few years, we are not. If we are to be judged by what Ohio is doing in an official way to promote improved breeding, we are not. The Ohio Legislature has never enacted a stallion registration law, whereby the owners of mares might be advised of the purity of breeding of sires in service in this state. Only a few years ago 627 stallions of unknown breeding were reported by 585 official correspondents of the State Board of Agriculture as in public service in Ohio. Without doubt there were many more than those reported. Ohio taxpayers own about 900,000 horses, and in 1919, these were taxed as valued at about \$75,000,000. Ohio is one of the few states of livestock importance that has never enacted any legislation besides matters involving disease conditions, whereby the use of purebred sires might be promoted.

In 1919 our total livestock valuation, based on assessment, which surely does not represent the actual value, amounted to \$222,000,000. Should not a state with such livestock wealth do something to get rid of scrubs, and let the people of America know that we believe in breeding the best? The College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University is interested in promoting the improvement of our livestock, and it will make use of every opportunity to give publicity to the good herds and flocks of the state, and assist in every legitimate way in bringing buyers into Ohio from other States.